GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:373
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
RICE PRODUCTION
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India`s rice production is likely to drop between 10 million to 80 million tonnes during the current year making it the lowest Indian harvest in seven years;

(b) if so, whether this may affect the Indian exports in 2002-2003;

(c) if so, the reasons for this shortfall;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to balance this shortfall by increasing wheat production; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.373 DUE FOR REPLY ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2002.

(a): As per the First Advance Estimates of agricultural production for 2002-03 released on 12.11.2002, the production of rice during kharif 2002-03 is likely to be 66.86 million tonnes which is lower by 12.50 million tonnes or 15.75% than the estimated production of kharif rice of 79.36 million tonnes in 2001-02. Assuming that this year`s rabi rice production would not be less than last year`s rabi rice production of 12.25 million tonnes, the total rice production during 2002-03 may touch the level of around 80 million tonnes, which is lower by around 12 million tonnes as compared to last year`s production of 91.61 million tonnes. The total production of rice in the country during last 7 years including 2002-03 is given below:-

Production of Rice (in million tonnes)

Year	Production
1996-97	81.73
1997-98	82.54
1998-99	86.08
1999-2000	89.68
2000-01	84.87
2001-02@	91.61
2002-03 (kharif only)#	66.86

@ Fourth Advance Estimates as on 27.06.2002.
# First Advance Estimates as on 12.11.2002.

(b) to (f): The shortfall in kharif rice production this year has been caused by the drought in a number of States in the country. Export of rice in any given year depends not only on production of rice in that year but also on the surplus stock available for sale. Since the

stock of rice continues to be well above the buffer norms, the expected shortfall in production this year may not lead to a shortfall in the export of rice. Though efforts are being made to minimize the adverse impact of drought on production of foodgrains, the continuance of drought like conditions has affected sowing of wheat which is lagging behind as compared to last year. Keeping in view the need to compensate farmers for the losses suffered in unirrigated areas and the additional expenditure incurred in irrigated areas, the Government announced Special Drought Relief price of Rs.20 per quintal for paddy, overand above the Minimum Support Price, for the kharif season 2002-03.